

North West Region Waste Management Joint Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th April 2011 at 1.30pm in the offices of Coleraine Borough Council.

PRESENT:	Ballymoney Borough Council Cllr E Robinson (Chair) Mr J Michael	Coleraine Borough Council Alderman S Gilkinson Cllr R McPherson Mr K Doherty
	Derry City Council Cllr S Gallagher Mr J Kelpie	Limavady Borough Council Alderman J Rankin Mr M McNicholl
	Magherafelt District Council Mr A Cassells	Moyle District Council Cllr R McIlroy Mr A McPeake
	Strabane District Council Malcolm Scott	NWRWMG Mr E Molloy Mr J Gray

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members. She informed members that the meeting was inquorate; however she sought permission to commence with items for information. The meeting agreed and the Chair proceeded to take apologies

Item 1 – Apologies

The following apologies were recorded: -

Councillor M Carten Limavady Borough Council
Mr N Crawford Limavady Borough Council
Mr J Dempsey Ballymoney Borough Council
Mr R Lewis Moyle District Council
Mr R Wilson Coleraine Borough Council
Miss O Warke DOE

Councillor McPherson joined the meeting at 1.35 pm

The Chair explained that a DVD had been prepared as part of the on-going procurement exercise and that a demonstration was available to the Committee. The Development Officer explained that the DVD was a communications tool that would be used in future engagement to explain the technologies that could be used to deliver the infrastructural project. The Project Manager explained that this activity had resulted from meetings with member councils. He proceeded to demonstrate the DVD and explained that this would be uploaded to the Group website. In addition pop-up stands, story boards etc could also be derived from the material that councils and the Group could use in the future.

Members thanked the team for their work in this area and the meeting agreed that this would be a very useful tool in the future.

Item 2 – Minutes

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes with the Committee on a page-by-page basis.

The minutes of the meeting of the 9th March 2011 were:

PROPOSED by Councillor S Gallagher and **SECONDED** by Councillor R McPherson

Item 3 - Matters arising

There being no matters arising the Chair moved to the next item of business.

Item 4 - Update on the Waste Infrastructure Programme

The Development Officer and the Project Manager updated Members on the progress of the waste infrastructure procurement programme. The following areas were covered: -

- Dialogue continues with the remaining two bidders with meetings taking place every second week.
- The client side team have been meeting on a weekly basis to ensure all contracting authority issues are identified and dealt with.
- Timescales – It is increasingly likely that the programme will slip and closing dialogue will have to be delayed. The Development Officer explained that on balance this would mitigate against inability to achieve financial close due to new issues being introduced post preferred bidder.
- Funders Due Diligence process is currently underway – this is taking longer than expected but is essential if the project is to achieve the requisite approvals before closing dialogue.
- Value engineering – The contracting authority is now discussing mandatory variant bids with the remaining bidders. These include non-reversion of assets and energy price hedging. Discussions will continue until the

authority is satisfied that the risk profile justifies the savings and will then determine the final mandatory variants

- Power generation and off takes – this report is nearing completion and will be used as part of the business case
- Technical solutions are fixed - bidders and the contracting authority continue to fine tune outstanding issues
- The Team continues to push bidders on the need to demonstrate value for money (VFM)

The Chair thanked the officers for their work and invited comments.

Councillor Gallagher reiterated the Chair's comments and asked if the delay in closing dialogue would impact on the timetable for Councils decision. He added that he felt it was essential that the Group strive to achieve the existing timeframes.

The Development Officer stated that while this was preferable he was obliged to inform the Committee if this was realistic in terms of the conduct of the dialogue. He felt that without completion of funders due diligence to a satisfactory level the risks that bids would be substandard was very real. In light of this he stated that he would not be able to close dialogue as originally intended. This would impact on the timing of the recommendation of preferred bidder. With Council recess in July and August he would be unable to properly convene the required meeting during this period and so the likelihood was that the decision and recommendation of the Joint Committee to Councils would now take place in September. He added that the risk associated with closing early to achieve the original timeframe was too great.

Councillor Gallagher expressed his disappointment but acknowledged the risk and the approach taken.

Item 5 - Northern Ireland Association of Independent Recyclers

The Development Officer referred to a letter he and the Chair had received from the above organisation requesting a meeting. He informed the meeting that he had received legal advice on the appropriateness of taking this meeting. He added that the Group could participate but could not engage in any discussions pertaining to the current procurement.

Members discussed the merits of participating in the said meeting but on balance felt that there was a strong likelihood that the perception created by such a meeting might contaminate the process and it was **Proposed** by Councillor McPherson and **Seconded** by Alderman Rankin that the Group should decline the invitation.

Item 6 - Annual Report

The Development Officer referred Members to the Annual Report that had been submitted and accepted by the Department. He informed the meeting that in the past this had been compiled by consultants, however, the report had been completed by the Waste Management Officer. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the officer, this was agreed by the meeting.

The Development Officer stated that the report would now be made available on the Group website and this was approved by the meeting.

Item 7- A.O.B.

The Development Officer referred to the Department's consultation on recycling. The closing date for submission of responses is 10th June 2011. Having outlined the content and stated that the document broadly reflected the NWRWMG position. As the Joint Committee will not meet again in advance of the closing date for responses, it was agreed that a positive response be submitted on behalf of the Group.

The Chair took the opportunity to wish all members of the Group well in the future, those standing for election and those who would retire. She thanked all members for their support of her as Chair and of the work of the Group.

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Chair and on behalf of the members wished her well.

Mr McPeake, on behalf of the officer team, wished all members well.

The Development Officer concluded by thanking the Members for their work which had allowed substantial progress to be made on the infrastructure procurement project. He added that he looked forward to continuing working with the Committee in the future to deliver the project.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 2.30pm.

Signed:



**Cllr Evelyne Robinson
Chair**